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April 30, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol Street, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I am an avid viewer of C-SPAN, and I am writing just this one letter to you, although the urge to write to you comes to me daily. I would like to make two or three comments in this letter, then I would like to ask you a question, and finally, propose an idea for use on your show.

I have been politically active since I was eight years old, and that was in 1968, when I urged my Democratic mother to "do the RIGHT thing" and vote Republican. I gave her all my views on all of the issues and begged her to no longer mindlessly pull that Democratic lever. It is noteworthy to say that she felt safer leaving me at home alone while she voted, rather than taking me with her and fearing I would be politically motivated to cause a riot down at the polling booth. Little did she know that, only seven years later, our home would be bombarded by telephone calls from members of our community after my political free-speech message on the 6:00 News when I spoke out against passage of the ERA.

While in school, I watched an average of three hours of television news broadcasts daily. It took me no time at all to realize that whatever the liberal media was pushing at that particular time, it was in my best interest to believe the antithesis. I still do.

When I began watching C-SPAN, I verified what I already knew to be true: my elected officials are all idiots. It is pointless to use a flowery, tactful euphemism to describe them, because an idiot by any other name would still smell as foul. One thing C-SPAN taught me was that if I wanted a good, honest, decent Representative, I would have to move to a certain district in Georgia to have the honor of being served by Congressman Newt Gingrich, my political hero in every sense of the word. And speaking of heroes, your programming on President Nixon was exceptional and first-rate.

You have done such a tremendous job with C-SPAN that I cannot possibly find the words (I am a free-lance writer) to tell you what an extraordinary program you have, and what a marvelous public service you provide. I work in the advertising industry, and I believe that I am a good judge of fact versus fluff. Thanks to C-SPAN, I no longer have to watch endless hours of television news to read between the lines and find the true story; I simply have to turn on C-SPAN for all the facts.

Mr. Lamb, I know, without asking, that you are a genius. It doesn't take a genius to spot one, and by viewing your "Journalist Roundtable" and "Booknotes" programs, I have uncovered enough evidence to conclude that you are one of the most intelligent and thoughtful people this world has ever produced. I just

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cannot figure out how you are able to sit there emotionless while havoc is being wrecked all around you! While I watch your programs, my poor TV becomes the senseless victim of assault as it is hit with dozens of projectiles which I have hurled in anger at some of the remarks made by certain guests on your shows. How do you remain completely and utterly neutral? You are obviously a better man than I, Mr. Lamb.

This is the tough part. Mr. Lamb, you are central to the success of C-SPAN, yet we know so very little about you. Although I have formulated a "Brian Lamb Profile" (it can be yours, free of charge) based solely on my "Sherlockian" powers of observation, I feel an almost desperate need for validation! My question to you is this: Mr. Brian Lamb, WHO ARE YOU?

I know that your response will be something along the lines of, "I am just a traffic cop on the informational political highway" or "If you are aware of my presence during the programming, then I am not doing my job", or some other modest nonsense. I want to chuck away the modesty, Mr. Lamb, and get down to the bone. As I mentioned, I do some free-lance writing, and my "dream story" is to write an in-depth article about you. Now, I neither have the funds nor the belief in dreams to believe that I will ever get to Washington, DC to meet you. However, I feel compelled to tell you that you are important to so many people, Mr. Lamb, and writing a story about you is my ultimate journalistic fantasy. Now, before you say, "Why doesn't this woman get a life", let me assure you that my life is more than full; it would simply become more complete by getting to know the man behind the newest "greatest show on earth" (and I don't mean to imply that Congress is a circus).

You are a remarkable man, Mr. Lamb, and I can think of no other who has worked so diligently for the good of this country by exposing the nature of our government. The service you provide is no less vital than that of the players who act out the drama. I had a great need to write to you, not just to thank you for your service to this country, but to let you know that you are a hero. In my eyes, you are a hero of the greatest kind: a hero of truth.

Who are you, Mr. Lamb? I mean, besides being a public figure, a genius, an intellectual, a writer, a moderator, a mastermind and a hero, who are you? I propose that you spend five minutes per day on your show answering viewers' questions about you. Well?

Thank you for your great gift to this country of the best political programming available. And thank you, Mr. Lamb, for you. Won't you please let us know whom it is we have to thank!

Most sincerely yours,

